**22-Hotel-69**

**45th Anniversary Reunion**

**After Action Report**

**Reunion Committee Members**

Dennis Gehley

Chuck Engelberger

Kit Kitson

Joe Tavares

Steve Wing

Craig Carothers

Jim Wilson

**September 15, 2014**

**22-Hotel-69**

**45th Anniversary Reunion**

**August 8-10, 2014**

The 45th Anniversary Reunion was held at the Embassy Suites in Springfield, Virginia. One Tac Officer, 23 candidates, and 15 spouses attended the reunion. The official photographer/guide accompanied the group all three days and a Ft. Belvoir Eagle Newspaper reporter was with the group on Saturday. In addition to these two individuals, three additional guests, the orator, his wife, and the guest speaker, were at the formal dinner on Saturday night.

1. **Reunion Committee**
   1. Dennis Gehley-Chairman
   2. Chuck Engelberger-Treasurer
   3. Kit Kitson-Candidate Finder
   4. Joe Tavares-Ombudsman
   5. Steve Wing-Biographies Updates
   6. Craig Carothers-Website Coordinator
   7. Jim Wilson- 2nd Platoon Liaison
2. **Reunion Agenda**

Friday August 8th

3:00 PM Check-in at Embassy Suites

5:00-9:00 PM Opening Reception

8:30-9:30 PM Conference Call with classmates who could not attend

9:00-1200 PM Hospitality Suites

Saturday August 9th

7:00-9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast

9:00 AM Bus to Vietnam War Memorial

11:00 AM Wreath Laying at the Vietnam War Memorial

11:15 AM Bus to Lunch at Old Ebbitt Grill

11:30-12:30 AM Lunch at Old Ebbitt Grill

World War II Memorial (not on agenda)

12:30 PM Bus to Embassy Suites

1:30 PM Free time

5:30 PM Bus to Officer’s Club via old OCS area

Group picture at the OSAEOCR Historical Plaque (not on agenda)

6:00-7:00 PM Cocktail Hour

7:15 PM Presentation of the Colors/Star Spangled Banner

7:30 PM Blessing

8:00-9:00 PM Dinner

9:00 PM Reunion Committee Chairman’s Remarks

9:05 PM Tac Officer’s Remarks

9:15 PM Guest Speaker’s Remarks/Plaque Presentation

9:30 PM Final Blessing/Closing Remarks/Concluding Song

9:40 PM Retirement of Colors

10:00 PM Bus to Embassy Suites

10:30-12:00 PM Hospitality Suites

Sunday August 10th

7:00-9:00 AM Complimentary Breakfast

9:00 AM Bus to Marine Corps Museum

10:00-12:00 AM Museum Tour

12:00-2:00 PM Brunch at Museum

2:00 PM Bus to Embassy Suites

NOTE: Times shown are times shown on the agenda and may not be the actual time the events took place.

Recommendation: During initial commitment to attend the reunion, inquire on how many classmates/spouses will attend Sunday events, i.e. Marine Corps Museum visit. A decision can be made to use commercial or POV transportation. Get a final count at the Friday night reception.

1. **Souvenir Packets**
   1. A souvenir packet was provided each attendee. The packet consisted of the following items:
      1. Name Tags (attendees and spouses)
      2. Reunion Agenda on Engineer red card stock paper
      3. 1st Platoon photo
      4. 1st Platoon roster
      5. 2nd Platoon photo
      6. 2nd Platoon roster
      7. 22-Hotel-69 Reunion DVD (40 minutes, 541 photos, 12 songs)
      8. Three mini-flags with base: U.S., POW-Mia, and 22-Hotel-69
      9. Photo of USAEOCR roadside plaque emplaced by 18-B-69
      10. Photo of Regimental Colors and Color Guard, Fort Belvoir, 1969
      11. 22-Hotel-69 baseball cap (A $10.00 donation for a cap was recommended for some non-attendees).
   2. Except for the baseball cap, the spouses’ packet contained the items listed above.
   3. Souvenir packets were mailed free to non-attendees who were contacted but could not attend. Donations to the reunion were voluntary.
   4. Several attendees paid the mailing cost for the packets to be sent to non-attendees.
   5. Recommendation: Include packet mailing costs in the overall reunion costs.
   6. Recommendation: The spouses’ packet should contain only the agenda and name tag.
2. **Transportation**
   1. Chartered bus transportation was provided to and from official events.
   2. Attendees were asked to tip the Saturday bus driver who drove the group to Washington, DC and to the Officers’ Club.
   3. The tip for the Sunday driver who drove the group to the Marine Corps Museum was taken from the general fund.
   4. Recommendation: A head count should be taken before the bus departs each event to ensure everyone is present upon return.
   5. Recommendation: The bus drivers’ tips should be calculated in the overall costs and paid from the general fund.
3. **Meals**
   1. Complimentary Breakfasts
   2. Friday Night (cash bar and hors d’oeuvres)
   3. Saturday Noon Meal
   4. Saturday Night Meal
   5. Sunday Noon Meal
   6. Note: On Friday night the hotel had complimentary drinks and hors d’oeuvres in a room down the hall from the opening reception room.
4. **Beverages**
   1. No hard liquor was purchased. However, some attendees brought their own liquor.
   2. An attendee brought micro-brewery beer.
   3. Beverages consumed
      1. Two cases bottled water (48 bottles)
      2. One and one-half cases diet coke (36 cans)
      3. Two cases lite beer (48 cans)
      4. Three bottles (1.75 Liters) white wine
      5. One case Coke (12 cans)
      6. One-half case 7 UP and Ginger Ale (12 cans)
   4. An attendee provided a very large ice chest which contained bottled water that was taken on the bus. Only two bottles were consumed but the weather was not that hot. The same ice chest was used in the Hospitality Room.
5. **Snacks**
   1. Three bags of pretzels were purchased for the Hospitality Room. Only one bag was consumed.
   2. The remaining hors d’oeuvres from the Friday night reception were taken to the Hospitality Rooms and consumed on Friday and Saturday night.
   3. Napkins and small paper plates were purchased for the snacks.
   4. An attendee provided the cork screw and bottle opener.
6. **Toasts and Tribute**
   1. The original plan was to select prior to the reunion four attendees to propose the toasts. This did not happen and it was not until on the bus ride to the Officers’ Club on Saturday night that four attendees were asked to give the toasts.
   2. There were four toasts:

Gentlemen, please stand and charge your glasses.

* + 1. Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the United States Army.

Response: To the Army.

* + 1. Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the Engineer Officer Candidate Regiment.

Response: To the Regiment.

* + 1. Ladies and Gentlemen, I propose a toast to our deceased classmates.

Response: To our deceased classmates.

* + 1. Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the Ladies here present.

Response: To the Ladies.

* + 1. Joe Tarves gave a special tribute given for Stanley Lapidow, deceased 1st Platoon member, COL (Retired), USAR.
  1. Recommendation: A fifth toast, To Hotel Company, should be made after the Regimental Toast.
  2. Recommendation: Asked for volunteers prior to the reunion to give the toasts.

1. **Posting/Retiring of the Colors and Flags**
   1. The Color Guard, consisting of four 22-Hotel-69 graduates in their Dress Blues, posted and retired the colors. A classmate and member of the Color Guard provided the posting/retiring procedures, shoulder straps, and the white gloves.
   2. Four flags were used:
      1. United States Flag (from the Officer Club but the staff was too short so the flag stand had to placed upon boxes).
      2. Army Flag (from the Ft. Belvoir Garrison Command). The command has various flags and flag stands.
      3. Engineer Flag (from the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Fort Belvoir).
      4. 22 Hotel Flag (Dennis Gehley has possession of the flag.)
   3. Recommendation: The Fort Belvoir Garrison Command can be the single source for all flags and flag stands except for the 22 Hotel flag.
2. **Photographer**
   1. Bill Shugarts, a professional photographer and 1968 OCS graduate who was the chairman of his class’ reunion in May 2014, was present throughout the reunion. He also served as our guide at the Vietnam and World War II Memorials and Marine Corps Museum.
   2. A professional photographer from the second platoon was also present throughout the reunion.
   3. Recommendation: Photos be posted on the website.
3. **Finances**
   1. Have the attendees submit one-half the individual reunion cost two months in advance. The amount would be non-refundable unless after all reunion expenses were paid, additional funds were available.
   2. Consider all expenses: transportation, souvenir kits, flags, wreath, caps, bus driver tips, reception, hospitality room and liquor and miscellaneous expenses in determining cost per attendee.
   3. Recommendation: When calculating the meal costs, factor in the gratuity and tax.
   4. Recommendation: Factor in the tax for all other costs.
4. **Monetary Donations** 
   1. Some non-attendees made donations.
   2. Some attendees who planned to attend but could not due to a last minute emergency made donations.
   3. Due to the underestimation of costs per attendee and the loss of income from individuals who were scheduled to attend but could not at the last minute, donations were taken up on Saturday night after the formal dinner. Others who wished to donate were asked to mail their contributions.
5. **Donations**
   1. In additions to monetary donations, the following items were donated:
      1. Wreath Bearers’ Uniforms
      2. Hospitality Room alcoholic beverages and refreshments
      3. 22-Hotel Flag Pole, stand, and brass cap
      4. “Welcome Back” 22-Hotel-69 Banner
      5. Banner flag poles and flag pole stands
      6. Sunday Bus Transportation
      7. Postage to mail souvenir packets to non-attendees
      8. Guest Speaker Plaque
   2. Total cost of donated items was $1611.54
6. **Conference Call**
   1. A conference call with one Tac Officer and five classmates was conducted at 8:30-9:30 PM on Friday night.
   2. The conference call was very well received but should be conducted in a quiet area so everyone could hear the conservation and benefit from the interaction. In some instances, the background conservation between non-conference call participants in the Hospitality Room made it difficult to hear the conference call participants speaking.
   3. Recommendation: Having not seen each other for 45 years, visual recognition through Skype or Face Time would have enhanced the interface.
7. **Biographies**
   1. Biographies were submitted to a classmate who edited and sent them to the website coordinator.
   2. Spouses of deceased classmates were asked to submit the obituary or a write up about the deceased.
   3. Recommendation: A binder with the attendees’ biographies should be available at the reunion so attendees can browse through for background information.
8. **22-Hotel-69 Website**
   1. A classmate built and maintained the website.
   2. The biography page was password protected.
   3. Recommendation: That the website be maintained through the 50th Reunion.
9. **Vietnam Memorial Wreath Ceremony**
   1. Five classmates volunteered to participate in the wreath laying ceremony. One classmate gave a brief speech and read the names of our deceased classmates (all had died of natural causes). The other four presented the wreath at the wall.
   2. Wreath Bearer Uniforms
      1. Black Berets
      2. Army Wreath Hat Pins
      3. Military Polo Shirt
10. **Dress Code**
    1. Dress code for the reunion was generally “Casual” from Friday arrival until Sunday departure. Weekend activities such as the Friday afternoon ice-breaker, Saturday touring and lunch, and Sunday at the Marine Corps Museum will allow for jeans, slacks, shorts, etc.
    2. **Saturday Night at the Officers’ Club.** Club policy prohibited the wearing of JEANS. The Anniversary Reunion Committee recommended “Smart (Business) Casual”, at a minimum. Ties are NOT required. “Smart (Business) Casual” means starched shirt and trousers with pressed creases. A sport coat or blazer is optional but no billboard shirts, cargo pants, or flip flops.
    3. **Ladies Will Look Good in Anything, As Always.** Clothing options for the ladies include any appropriate evening restaurant attire such as dresses, pant suits, skirts and blouses – whatever you are liable to be comfortable with in Washington, D.C., in August, with the possibility of 90+ degree temperature outdoors.
    4. The Saturday night keynote speaker wore a tuxedo. Also, the Color Guard wore their Dress Blues.

**22 Hotel ARC Reunion Planning Bulletin No. 1: December 8, 2013**

(as written and distributed)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where Am I Going To Stay If I Need A Hotel?

Embassy Suites

8100 Loisdale Road

Springfield, VA 22150

Phone 571-339-2000

2. What Will The Hotel Cost Me Per Night?

Studio King $99.00 10 rooms Friday 8/8/14, 10 rooms Saturday 8/9/14

King Suite $109.00 6 rooms Friday 8/8/14, 6 rooms Saturday 8/9/14

Double Suite $119.00 3 rooms Friday 8/8/14, 3 rooms Saturday 8/9/14

Upgraded King $119.00 3 rooms Friday 8/8/14, 3 rooms Saturday 8/9/14

Upgraded double $119.00 3 rooms Friday 8/8/14, 3 rooms Saturday 8/9/14

3. How Do I Make Reservations?

Embassy Suites has established a reunion website exclusively for 22-Hotel and notified us that the website is now accepting reservations. There is no middleman in 22-Hotel responsible for reservation matters. Each of us will independently make reservations for ourselves and our guest(s). Embassy Suites will be the central focal point for tallying how many 22-Hotel graduates have registered with them. Our 22-Hotel Embassy Suites website is

<http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DCASVES-22H-20140808/index.jhtml>.

Reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. As of December 8, 2013, there are at least 12 rooms already reserved by 22-Hotel graduates and their 10 guests. Once the first 25 rooms have been reserved, ARC will negotiate with Embassy Suites for an additional block of rooms if there is an apparent need for them. (12 reserved rooms + 2 local stays = 14 graduates say they are coming.)

4. What Are We Going To Do For 3 Days?

Virtually all weekend activities are optional. There has been a strong indication in 22-Hotel email that we want to have time throughout the weekend to reacquaint ourselves with fellow classmates. At this time, the only “definites” are a Friday night extended Happy Hour at the hotel, Saturday morning and Sunday morning breakfasts at the hotel, and a Saturday night dinner at the Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club. All else is subject to forthcoming discussion and input from you to our Reunion Committee. Suggestions received so far for Saturday include the following:

1. Hanging out at Embassy Suites, swimming pool, chilling out, telling war stories, catching up on 45 years, etc. (Souvenir T-Shirt: “Going nowhere, and proud of it!”). “Rest!” is the operative command here until dinner at the Officers’ Club;

Note: *Did not go to Arlington Cemetery.*

2. Chartered bus from Embassy Suites to Vietnam Memorial, World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and/or Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with changing of the Guard, then return to Embassy Suites;

3. POV or carpool from Embassy Suites to Ft. Belvoir for walking/riding tour of the old Regiment and new facilities;

4. POV or carpool from Embassy Suites to Marine Corps Museum at Quantico;

5. POV or carpool from Embassy Suites to Springfield American Legion for afternoon of beer, cheer, and remembering. (Did not occur.)

6. Other options as requested/suggested by reunion attendees.

5. Who Is On The 45th Anniversary Reunion Committee?

As of December 8, 2013, Reunion Committee members, in first name alphabetical order, are

* Treasurer Chuck Engelberger, (Bag Man);
* Website Guru Craig Carothers (Geek Man);
* OIC Dennis Gehley (Cabana Boy);
* Candidate Finder-Locator Kit Kitson (Hound Dog Man); and
* Ombudsman Joe Tavares (Bionic Man).

All are volunteers. Additional volunteers will be needed at various times in different capacities from December 2013 through August 2014 to pull this reunion off. A 22-Hotel Reunion website will need volunteer webmasters from now until the end of time. Or until we decide to shut the website down.

6. What Is The Story On August 9 Saturday Night’s Dinner?

The Reunion Committee has reserved the Castle Room at the Officers’ Club for not more than 80 persons on Saturday evening, August 9, 2014, and has made the $400 deposit for the event. If attendance at the dinner is expected to be more than 80 persons, the Club will schedule us for a larger room with a view of the Potomac River. (The same river that was there in 1969, just cleaner now.) The Committee is accepting nominations for an after-dinner guest speaker if you want one. Reunion Committee members may exercise the option of also giving brief remarks after dinner. Appropriate toasts will be made throughout the evening.

Your $25.00 per person dinner cost includes tax and tip and will be included in your prepaid weekend fee for all events, currently estimated to be $200 per person for all 3 days, payable in two installments in 2014, details forthcoming in future ARC Bulletins.

7. What Is This Reunion Weekend Going To Cost Me?

Part A is fairly standard: transportation costs to and from northern Virginia is on you. Hotel room is on you.

Part B is a bit more complicated. It depends on what you want to do as a group.

Do you want to do what OCS Class 515 Hotel (August 1968 commissioning) is planning to do during their reunion weekend in May 2014? That is, party at the Embassy Suites Friday night; bus transportation Saturday to Arlington National Cemetery, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and Class 515 Hotel wreath laying at the Vietnam Memorial; bus transportation Sunday to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia, and lunch at Quantico. Walk back from Quantico 20 miles to the Embassy Suites. (Just kidding!)

Cost per person for the above for Class 515 Hotel Part B is $150, payable in two installments prior to the start of the reunion. See their website www.1968ocsclass515.org/Reunion.

We hope you will give some kind of feedback to your Reunion Committee: do we do the same thing as 515 Hotel, only part of it, or maybe none of it? If “not do” what 515 Hotel is doing, what else/what other stuff do you want to do?

8. What Happens Next?

Email or call in your room reservation for the nights of August 8 and 9, 2014, or longer if you want. Once Embassy Suites has filled the block of 25 rooms it set aside for us, it will ask us how many additional rooms we want to “block” for the reunion. The Reunion Committee will canvass those who have not yet registered in order to determine how many more rooms we should reserve. We are required to actually fill 80% of the additional rooms we ask for. If we do not fill the 80%, we have to pay for those who do not show, until the 80% is paid for.

9. Whom Do I Contact If I Have Questions About Any of This Reunion Stuff?

(Since the reunion, some telephone numbers have changed.)

Chuck Engelberger [chareng9@msn.com](mailto:chareng9@msn.com) 703-569-2844 Home

Craig Carothers [craigc@carothers-carruthers.com](mailto:craigc@carothers-carruthers.com) 618-624-5380 Home

Dennis Gehley [dmgehley@me.com](mailto:dmgehley@me.com) 703-451-6764 Home

Kit Kitson [Ckitson5@verizon.net](mailto:Ckitson5@verizon.net) 610-291-9858 Cell

Joe Tavares [josephtavares45@gmail.com](mailto:josephtavares45@gmail.com) 904-273-4409 Home

Embassy Suites 571-339-2000

10. What Have We Forgotten To Tell You? Give Us Your Feedback!

Mindreading is not one of the skills we learned in OCS or afterwards. Let us know what you think, what you want from your reunion. This might be our only chance to reunite on an official, grand scale. Let’s do it right. Essayons!

11. Anything Else the ARC Should Tell You?

Reunion attendees are encouraged to bring your MILITARY memorabilia for display in our hospitality room(s) throughout the weekend. Unit uniform patches, DD 214's, jungle fatigues/boots, booney hats, 45 year old Arby sandwiches, beer steins, photos that you do not want to be seen online or on our 22 Hotel website, whatever you got. Lady volunteers will be encouraged to arrange our memorabilia display in a tasteful manner. Sort of like our foot lockers used to be, only with that feminine, artistic touch. Extra EXTRA credit for anyone bringing an inflatable BIG CHICKEN to suspend from the ceiling.

12. Donations Honor Deceased Classmates Brownell, Kirkland, Lapidow

The ARC has decided to honor our deceased brothers (*John Brownell, Kilby Kirkland, and Stan Lapidow*) by accepting donations in their name from their surviving Hotel company members, families, and friends. Donations will be used to provide a 22-Hotel Reunion “Scholarship” to one individual who attends the reunion and is willing to accept reunion donations for his transportation, hotel, meals, tours, and other reasonable incidental out-of-pocket expenses he may incur by attending the reunion. ARC is willing to accept any and all nominations from you for this “scholarship”. ARC will give special consideration to 22-Hotel members who may be affected by ongoing Agent Orange issues. See ARC Reunion Planning Bulletin No. 2 (January 2014) for details on how and where to make donations. (*As far as I know, no donations were taken*.)

13. ARC Chairman (Reunion OIC) Recommends These Songs for Homework

* *“Where Have All the Flowers Gone”* by Pete Seeger; Peter, Paul and Mary; or the Kingston Trio
* *“Wasn’t That A Party!”* by the Irish Rovers
* *“Lucky, Lucky Man”* by Henry Gray

14. Seven 22-Hotel Classmates Are Missing In Action As Of December 8, 2013

MIA’s and Last Known Address:

William S. Clark  (CE)

6475 Broadway

Lancaster, N.Y.

Duty: Ft. Ord, CA

Jerry W. Fisher (ORD)

Egan, Louisiana

Duty: Aberdeen, Maryland

Franklin C. (Cam) Johnson Jr. (QM)

122 Chestnut Street

Wakefield, Mass.

Duty: Ft. Devens, Mass.

Francis P. McLaughlin Jr.(AG)

15159 South Wabash

South Holland , Illinois

Duty: Ft. Hood, TX

John D. Nystrom  (QM)

1115 Clinton Ave.

Des Moines, Iowa

Duty:  N/A

John M. Richards (MI)

4902 Rockmere Court

Washington, D.C.

Duty: Ft. Bragg, NC

Michael Lee West (MI)

7765 Germantown Road

Indianapolis, Indiana

Duty: Petaluma, CA

15. Details Too Many To Go Into Now – Wait Until January 2014 Bulletin No. 2

No sooner did we think we were ready to send out Bulletin No. 1 than we realized there are many, many details just too numerous to include in this first Bulletin. For example, Joe Tavares has already gathered info on your auto access to Ft. Belvoir during reunion weekend, and he is working with Make A Wish Foundation for possible press coverage (souvenir DVD?) and possible financial support from them. We are working on maps and directions around the new and improved Ft. Belvoir so you can find what’s left of the old Regiment. (Not much). We have a retired Navy Captain who greets Honor Flights for WW II veterans at Reagan National Airport - he has volunteered to personally guide us, complete with commentary, on tours of the Vietnam and World War II Memorials. We have even made sure that the Springfield American Legion has enough grill capacity, burger-wise and hot-dog-wise, to accommodate those who plan to spend a few hours drinking cold beer on a Saturday afternoon. We are gathering cell phone numbers (restricted access on the website to 22-Hotel only) from those attending the reunion so that you may stay in constant phone contact with (or avoid answering phone calls from) fellow attendees as you cruise around the D.C. area. How about listening to songs we marched to in 1969, on a free reunion CD for each of us: California Dreaming, My Dog Blue, whatever we can remember. (Send in the Clowns? Fools Rush In?)

Note: *No one went to the American Legion and the retired Navy Captain was not contacted to be our guide.*

Now remember:

1. Reserve your room at Embassy Suites (page1): 25 first come, first served.
2. Be patient: Bulletin No. 2 is only one month away. In the New Year 2014!

22-Hotel-69 45th Anniversary Reunion

(Final) Bulletin No. 2: June 17, 2014

***We can hardly wait to see you in August!***

Your ARC has worked tirelessly during the last year to help make Joe Tavares’s “dream” come true. If it had not been for Joe and his connection with the Make A Wish Foundation, and the efforts of Kit Kitson and others to find us, this reunion may not have happened. We might still all be sitting around the country thinking “I wonder whatever happened to Ed Svitil and his orange? What about The Hard Core Four? Whatever happened to TAC officers Bundy and Dawson and Heien and Ware? Did someone really go AWOL from our billets and not get caught?” (Clyde Davis wants to know.)

We need to remember that tomorrow is not guaranteed to any of us. For some of us, this will be our final, one and only chance at a reunion. Some will die or not be able to travel due to medical or family issues. Some will become diseased and not be able to remember, as Steve Wing so eloquently recorded in the summer of ’69, “The Days of 22 Hotel.” How very important it is for us to remember each other. Who else will?

So, come join us on August 8-9-10 for our first gathering in 45 years. Watch the DVD we are making titled “22-Hotel-69: The First 45 Years” and see “the way we were.” Take it home and remember those days when we were young(er).

As Dennis Gehley would say: “The 50th anniversary is only 5 years away. Maybe.”

As Joe Boyle would say: “Peace.”

As Kit Kitson would say: “XX Days to Roll Call.”

**Highlights in This (Final) Bulletin No. 2**

1. Rooms at Embassy Suites are still available
2. We need your money to pay our bills
3. Donations are encouraged and welcome
4. Are you going to Quantico by bus for lunch on Sunday?
5. Where is your biography for our website?
6. Where are your photos for our Memory Board and DVD?
7. We need volunteers for Vietnam Memorial wreath ceremony and Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club Color Guard
8. You get to choose your meal preferences
9. Embassy Suites is donating rooms to us

10. Summary of Reunion Deadlines

1. Rooms at Embassy Suites are still available

Your Anniversary Reunion Committee (ARC) has negotiated an agreement with Embassy Suites whereby, even if you have not registered for the reunion and show up unannounced on the day of the reunion, you will still be able to “get a room” at the 22-Hotel-69 weekend rate.

You can reserve your reunion weekend room online at <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DCASVES-22H-20140808/index.jhtml>

As soon as you have booked your room, PLEASE EMAIL [CKITSON5@VERIZON.NET](mailto:CKITSON5@VERIZON.NET) to let him know you are attending. Kit is responsible for maintaining and updating the 22 Hotel Reunion Roster. He wants to know your arrival and departure dates and the number of guests including yourself. Thanks in advance for doing this.

2. We need your money now to pay your bills

As of June 17, 44 classmates from 22-Hotel-69 including their guests have already made reservations to attend the reunion. Based on this response, we estimate a total of 60 attendees for the reunion. ARC has signed contracts for Friday night food in our reserved private room at Embassy Suites; for a memorial wreath to be placed by 22-Hotel-69 at the Vietnam Memorial on Saturday morning; for Saturday afternoon lunch at the Old Ebbitt Grill in Washington, D.C.; for dinner at the Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club Saturday evening; and for Sunday lunch at the Quantico Marine Corps Museum.

In addition, ARC has commissioned a memorial reunion flag to be carried and displayed throughout the weekend (photo ops!) and a memorial banner to be displayed whenever we take individual and group pictures. These things cost money. (Your money.) We look forward to receiving $150 for yourself for the weekend and $150 each for your wife or other guests.

What do I get for my $150?

* Finger food in the reception room Friday 5:00 – 9:00 PM
* Lunch Saturday Old Ebbitt Grill
* Dinner Saturday night Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club
* Lunch Sunday Marine Corps Museum Quantico 12:00 noon
* Memorial wreath at the Vietnam Memorial
* Bus transportation Saturday and Sunday to all locations and events (Vietnam Memorial, Ft. Belvoir, Quantico)
* Personal souvenir packet with DVD, 1st and 2nd Platoon photos and names, 22-Hotel-69 Roster August 1969, three miniature flags (U.S., POW/MIA, and 22-Hotel-69) and flag stand
* Souvenir baseball cap for OCS classmates
* Private 22-Hotel-69 hospitality suite snacks and beverages Friday 5:00 PM through Sunday 1:00 PM

Details regarding check payments follow.

**Make all checks payable to:**

22-Hotel Reunion Account/Charles Engelberger

**Mail your checks to:**

Chuck Engelberger

18229 Glen Abbey Court

Leesburg, VA 20176

3. Donations are encouraged and welcome

The ARC is very pleased to announce that we have already received anonymous donations to pay for a portion of the costs associated with 22-Hotel-69 flag and memorial banner.

If you cannot attend the reunion but would like to make a donation to support reunion costs, your donation toward the following expenses would be greatly appreciated:

* Memorial wreath (22-Hotel-69 deceased)
* Reunion flag
* Reunion banner
* Administrative expenses for copying and mailing souvenir packages to reconnected members who could not attend the reunion
* Other purposes as you so designate

Hey – you can also donate to the Reunion Kitty when you attend! Or afterward.

4. Are you going to Quantico for lunch on Sunday?

We have arranged for bus transportation Sunday morning to and from the Marine Corps Museum at Quantico, lunch at $20 person between 12:00 noon and 2:00, and return bus trip to Embassy Suites at 2:30 arriving Embassy Suites 3:00.

Some ARC members are concerned that there may not be enough time for people to take the bus, tour the museum, have lunch at Quantico, and make their airplane reservations. They propose cancelling the bus on Sunday and using POV carpools to Quantico instead.

One option is to leave the Sunday bus reservation ($600) in place, regardless of how few people use the bus.

Another option is to form ad hoc carpools and go to and from Quantico at each carpool’s convenience.

And finally, what to do about the $20 planned lunch at Quantico? If we carpool, it is unlikely that we all arrive, eat, and depart at the same time, unless we set a fixed time (12:00 noon) and agree to meet then. So, do we cancel our reservation for 40 people at Quantico and let everyone fend for themselves? Decisions, decisions.

For planning and reservation purposes at this time, we need to assume that at least some people will take the bus and that those people who take the bus will have lunch at the museum. If, in the end, you do not take the bus or have lunch with the group at 12:00, ARC will refund you $10 for the bus and $20 for lunch. Somehow we will figure it all out.

On or about July 1, ARC will send a very brief email survey to those who have indicated they plan to attend the reunion. We will ask you about your Quantico plans for Sunday August 10.

5. Where is your biography for our website?

Relatively few of us have submitted biographies to Steve Wing for transmittal to Craig Carothers for our 22-Hotel-69 website. Please send your bios of Army assignments and later civilian life to Steve Wing at **Stephen Wing <swla@optonline.net not later than July 31.** Remember, your bios are proprietary information available only to those classmates with access to our website. If you need to refresh your memory about what our website password is, call Craig Carothers at 618-624-5380 home, 618-531-5569 cell, or email him at [craigc@carothers-carruthers.com](mailto:craigc@carothers-carruthers.com). Even if you cannot attend the reunion, we want to be able to include you on our proprietary website of “Who’s Who: Whatever Happened to Good Ol’ What’s His Name?”

6. Where are your photos for our Welcome Board and DVD?

The same sentiment about biographies (see item 5 above, in case you already forgot) also applies to your photos and documents and other memorabilia for the reunion DVD and the reunion Memory Board.

(Malicious) rumor has it that we seem to look older than we did 45 years ago. Imagine! How will we know who is whom at the reunion, except by staring at reunion nametags that may or may not be large enough to read after 3 drinks? Bill and Deanne Mills have agreed to assemble current (more or less) photos of each classmate – especially those who are attending the reunion – onto a large foam board that will be on display during our Friday reception 5:00 – 9:00 PM and throughout the weekend outside our hospitality suite. (Just in case you forget who you are, you can go check the Memory Board.) Right now, there is far more white space on the board than there are photos. Whether or not you can attend, please send a current photo of yourself (with spouse, OK, with pets, no) to Bill and Deanne **not later than July 8** at [bdmills65@yahoo.com](mailto:bdmills65@yahoo.com) or [deannermills@gmail.com](mailto:deannermills@gmail.com).

Reunion OIC Dennis Gehley is anxiously waiting to receive your photos and documents to include in the 22-Hotel-69 reunion DVD, a copy of which each OCS classmate and guest will receive in their souvenir package from the weekend. **Deadline** for receipt by Dennis is **July 8, 2014**. This is you chance to be highlighted forever, maybe even on YouTube. (Don’t hold your breath for that.) Send your DVD material by email to [dmgehley@me.com](mailto:dmgehley@me.com) or hard copy your stuff by snail mail to

Dennis Gehley/DVD

6901 Barnack Drive

Springfield, VA 22152-3320

It would help when you submit your photos if you could identify the individuals in the picture and the location, such as the name of military installation.

7. We need volunteers for Vietnam Memorial wreath ceremony and Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club Color Guard

Saturday morning at the Vietnam Memorial 22-Hotel-69 will place a wreath at The Wall in honor of those who died during the Vietnam War and in honor of those of our classmates who have died since we were commissioned. We need four members from 22-Hotel-69 to carry the wreath from our bus to The Wall. Memorial wreath volunteers should contact Kit Kitson at [ckitson5@verizon.net](mailto:ckitson5@verizon.net). “Uniform” is informal.

We also need four members to volunteer Saturday night at Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club as our Color Guard to present and retire the Colors before and after dinner. Volunteers should contact Ray Murray at [rmurray@raymurray.com](mailto:rmurray@raymurray.com). “Uniform” is appropriate to function. Ray can fill you in.

8. You get to choose your meal preferences

Your souvenir/registration package will include a choice of meal selections for Saturday afternoon’s lunch at Old Ebbitt Grill; dinner at the Ft. Belvoir Officers’ Club Saturday night; and Sunday brunch at the Quantico Marine Corps Museum.

9. Embassy Suites is donating Reception and Hospitality Rooms

Embassy Suites Management has offered to give us a first floor private meeting room – the Garfield Room – on August 8 for our initial reception from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, for FREE. In addition, Embassy Suites is giving us – FREE of charge – two (2) adjoining rooms on an upper floor that we can use as mini-hospitality rooms all weekend. Our memorial DVD will be shown continuously (with or without soundtrack) in both the Garfield Room and our private hospitality suites. Yay Embassy Suites!

10. Summary of Reunion Deadlines

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Make your room reservation** <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/D/DCASVES-22H-20140808/index.jhtml>

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**EMAIL** **Kit Kitson** [CKITSON5@VERIZON.NET](mailto:CKITSON5@VERIZON.NET) **about your room reservation and plans**

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Make out your check to:** **22-Hotel Reunion Account/Charles Engelberger**

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Mail your checks to:**

Chuck Engelberger

18229 Glen Abbey Court

Leesburg, VA 20176

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Send a current photo** of yourself to Bill and Deanne **not later than July 8** at [bdmills65@yahoo.com](mailto:bdmills65@yahoo.com) or [deannermills@gmail.com](mailto:deannermills@gmail.com).

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

Send your DVD material by email to [dmgehley@me.com](mailto:dmgehley@me.com) or hard copy your stuff by snail mail to

Dennis Gehley/DVD

6901 Barnack Drive

Springfield, VA 22152-3320

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Send your bios** of Army assignments and later civilian life to Steve Wing at **Stephen Wing <swla@optonline.net not later than July 31.**

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Memorial wreath volunteers** should contact Kit Kitson at [ckitson5@verizon.net](mailto:ckitson5@verizon.net).

***ASAP/Now/Do Not Wait:***

**Color Guard Volunteers** should contact Ray Murray at [rmurray@raymurray.com](mailto:rmurray@raymurray.com).

***We can hardly wait to see you in August!***

**Note: The font and format in the two bulletins were reduced to reduce the number of After Action Report pages.**